

onds and spanning only 120 yards, followed 120 years of unsuccessful attempts to accomplish such a feat. Although short when measured against today's trans-meridian flights, its significance was great because it established the foundation for future successes in aviation which continue to enrich the quality of our lives today.

This year we also celebrate the bicentennial of man's first flight. Two hundred years ago, on August 27, 1783, the Montgolfier Brothers of France first launched a manned hot air balloon into the atmosphere. Shortly thereafter, in a balloon constructed by an American lawyer, Peter Carnes, Esq., the first American ventured aloft in a tethered balloon in Baltimore.

49 USC app. 1301
note.

This year also marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958. This legislation created the Federal Aviation Administration, which has played a central role in making civil air carriage ten times safer than it was in 1958, thus helping to advance the progress of civil aviation and to fulfill the Wright Brothers' dreams of the future role aviation would have in our world.

To commemorate the historic achievement of the Wright Brothers, the Congress, by joint resolution of December 17, 1963 (77 Stat. 402; 36 U.S.C. 169), designated the seventeenth day of December of each year as Wright Brothers Day and requested the President to issue a proclamation annually inviting the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon the people of this Nation and their local and national governmental officials to observe Wright Brothers Day, December 17, 1983, with appropriate ceremonies and activities, both to recall the accomplishments and to stimulate the development of aviation in this country and throughout the world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of Oct., in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5120 of October 21, 1983

Metropolitan Opera Day, 1983

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Among this Nation's greatest treasures are the creative talents of our people and the opportunities available for them to develop their talents and thereby enhance the richness of our cultural life. In every artistic discipline, great American artists and institutions have established ever-rising standards of achievement to challenge and inspire successive generations.

No single institution embodies this tradition of sustained artistic achievement more fully than the Metropolitan Opera, which is celebrating 100 years of extraordinary contributions to the culture of America. Legendary performances of music theater masterpieces have filled the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, halls across the country during the Company's annual tours, and millions of American homes through live radio and television broadcasts which have become part of our national tradition. The Met-

ropolitan Opera also reaches out to discover and encourage young American talent by auditions held throughout the country, and it nurtures and develops great singers of the future.

Through its deep involvement with artists, audiences, and patrons, and with the voluntary assistance of the members of its National Council, the Metropolitan Opera has contributed invaluable to the growth of an American opera community whose vitality and brilliance are acclaimed around the world.

In recognition of the Metropolitan Opera's extraordinary achievements and commitment to excellence, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 128, has authorized and requested the President to designate October 22, 1983, the one hundredth anniversary of its first performance, as "Metropolitan Opera Day" throughout the United States.

Ante, p. 847.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate October 22, 1983, as Metropolitan Opera Day and call upon all Federal, State and local government agencies, interested groups and organizations, and the people of the United States to observe that day by engaging in appropriate programs and activities to show their support of America's rich heritage in music theater and one of its premier performing institutions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5121 of October 23, 1983

Death of American and French Military Personnel in Beirut, Lebanon

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

As a mark of respect for the American and French military personnel who died violently in the performance of their peacekeeping duties in the tragic bombings of October 23, 1983 in Beirut, Lebanon, I hereby order, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States of America, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions through Monday, October 31, 1983. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

RONALD REAGAN